



The Guardian

VOLUME 39, Issue 9 September 2008

Vanishing Seattle

By Officer Mike Severance, SPOG Secretary-Treasurer

Several months ago, I was at one of the uniform stores making a purchase. I noticed a soft cover book for sale titled “Vanishing Seattle”. It was about many Seattle landmarks which have long since disappeared. I have not been able to get the title of that book out of my mind because it seems to me that much more than landmarks are vanishing.

Although I was born in Seattle, I did not grow up here. My Dad was in the Marines Corps for 30 years, and I grew up on or near military bases. But most of my summers were spent in Seattle at the house I now own. By the time I came here to attend college, I had traversed the continental United States ten times, and had made the trip from southern California to Seattle and back many times.

Occasionally, after classes at Seattle U., I would walk downtown to the old Public Safety Building to visit my brother or uncle who were both on the Department. The Smith Tower was the tallest building in Seattle. That is definitely not the case today with skyscrapers everywhere. I suppose all that change in downtown Seattle is what anyone, including me, would have expected.

My home is in the Maple Leaf neighborhood of north Seattle. Although there has been change over the years, the overall character of the neighborhood had survived for a very long time. The building that was the old Triple XXX Drive-In is still there and is still a restaurant. The buildings that were Zesto’s, Glover’s Ice Cream Parlor, and the Van de Kamp Bakery are still there. The building at 80th and Roosevelt which was a Ma and Pa grocery store is now a restaurant. I remember walking to that old store countless times for bubble gum or a candy bar. The couple who owned it was very nice, but the woman scared the heck out of me because I thought she looked like the wicked witch in the Wizard of Oz. There have been some changes at Maple Leaf Park, but the merry-go-round is the same one I played on as a child. My children

and my grandchildren have all played on it too.

But the character of my neighborhood started to change a few years ago. I started to notice a lot of single family homes being demolished. They were all being replaced with multiplex town homes. I have long since given up trying to keep count of the homes bulldozed and replaced by multiplexes, and none of them are what I would call affordable housing. I heard that one of the reasons the zoning codes were changed to allow this multiplex boom was to allow people to buy a townhouse as a stepping stone to a real house. At the rate houses are being torn down, they may have to find a real house in another neighborhood or another city.

I find myself wondering how many of the homes that were sold and demolished belonged to retired senior citizens on a fixed income. Were they taxed out of the retired life they envisioned and forced to sell their homes? The long standing character of my neighborhood has vanished, and I am not happy about it.

The Mayor stated some time ago that he wanted 350,000 more people living in Seattle by 2040. There is no way that can ever happen unless single family homes are bulldozed and replaced with multiplexes. But look at the upside of 350,000 people. If each one of them uses two plastic or paper bags per week at a grocery store (not Nordstrom’s which is exempt), that is an extra \$7,280,000 a year into the City’s coffers. And when the 20 cents per bag tax is raised, it will mean even more money for the City.

Garbage rates are going up in Seattle. Los Angeles raised their garbage rates a while ago, but the money from the L.A. increase is being used exclusively to hire more cops...interesting idea.

And then there is the question of police and fire protection for all those extra people. If there is a long range plan on the table to provide that extra protection,

I have not seen it or even heard of it. We are still struggling to provide adequate staffing and services for the population we already have.

The 2007 SPD Annual Report is out. You all know how I love the numbers game. Maybe I’m a cynic. I

Continued on page 8

Remembering Our Fallen Heroes



- Albert C. Schaneman EOW: 09-14-1903
- Mathias H. Rude EOW: 09-24-1910
- Edwin Wilson EOW: 09-24-1919
- Robert L. Litsey EOW: 09-25-1924
- Lyle F. Tracy EOW: 09-08-1928
- Gene Perry EOW: 09-21-1930
- Walter G. Cottle EOW: 09-29-1930
- Ralph H. Ahner EOW: 09-13-1932
- Con B. Anderson EOW: 09-27-1936
- David P. Richards EOW: 09-01-1967
- Dorian L. Halvorson EOW: 09-24-1976

Gone But Not Forgotten

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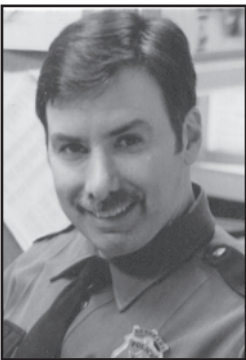
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President's Message

By Sergeant Rich O'Neill, SPOG President



Because of our printing deadlines I'm writing this while on vacation, but because of many different events this has certainly been a "working vacation." Sometimes I long for the days when we didn't have cell-phones, pagers or e-mail. When you were out, you were out. Boy, I'm sounding old!

This month I want to explain the SPOG endorsement process. SPOG is the largest police labor union in the Pacific Northwest and as a result we constantly get requests from candidates for our endorsement. Why? The hard working tax- paying public wants to know whom the cops like and don't like, especially when it comes to issues of public safety. They look to us for advice. The candidates all want to be viewed as being a "friend of law enforcement" who is tough on crime and will work for safer communities. I mean even in Seattle, would a candidate have any chance of winning if they came out and said that they didn't like the police and wanted to see more protections for the rights of criminals? I know that a few act like that once they are elected, but during the campaign time they all want to be our friends. That is the nature of politics. The days are over when we stay out of the political arena. Politics moves everything in this city and unfortunately many things in this department. We can either participate or be ignored on the sidelines. If you don't think politics played a role in our recent contract settlement, I have some ocean front property in Spokane to sell you.

So how does SPOG come to a decision? First we ask members to volunteer on our political action committee. Any SPOG member can volunteer and you don't have to be on the board. The committee writes a candidate questionnaire and when the candidate asks for our endorsement, we send them a questionnaire. When the questionnaires are returned, we schedule an interview day to interview all the candidates. This year the committee volunteered two days of their time to interview candidates. Following the in-person interviews, the committee makes a recommendation to the full SPOG Board of Directors and the board makes the final decision. Anytime an organization has more than 1200 members we understand that our decisions will not meet the approval of each and every member. We understand that political decisions can raise the emotions. The members elect the board of directors to make decisions and those decisions may not always please all the members, all of the time.

This year there are no local city council races, so we were busy with many requests from judges for Superior and Supreme Court positions. Please take the time to check our website for a complete list of endorsements. In next month's Guardian we will have a complete list of all the candidates that we've endorsed. In the Governor's race, the board decided to endorse Dino Rossi. Mr. Rossi went thorough the above endorsement procedure and impressed the board with his views on crime fighting and making Washington "the best place to open a business and the worst place to be a criminal." He also understood the need for LEOFF II reform. Our SPOG staff contacted Governor Gregoire's campaign and asked if the Governor was interested in being interviewed for endorsement. The campaign staffer said that they were "not interested in SPOG's endorsement." The campaign has since denied that was ever said. Before anyone thinks it may have been a simple blunder, consider what happened when we had a press conference to announce our decision. The event was for SPOG members, their families and invited members of the press. The event was held inside our SPOG office and was not open to the public. The event was already in progress when a man, later identified as being a campaign worker for the Governor, entered our building, equipped with a hand-held video recorder. Our staff person asked him to leave and he refused. The man was asked SIX times to leave (yes we were counting). Several SPOG members approached him and again he refused to leave, so they escorted him outside. The man then refused to leave the parking lot and we were forced to call 911. On-duty officers were dispatched. The man was warned and admonished for trespassing. He seemed confused as to why he was asked to leave. The fact that he entered a private building unannounced and then refused to leave was not enough for him. Does the Governor endorse this type of behavior from her campaign workers? The Seattle Times even featured an article about this incident. I sent the reporter an e-mail and asked him to include my eyewitness account to the story. Vice-President Ty Elster even gave an interview to the reporter. None of our comments appeared in the story. The "fair and balanced Seattle Times" did it again. And they wonder why people turn to other sources to get their news? This event, along with the fact that the Governor's campaign has yet to apologize for this man's actions, confirms in my mind that our board made the correct endorsement decision.

Next I would like to discuss some of the changes with our new contract. Once again, The Times wrote a story that claimed that the department will now be releasing officers names in Public Disclosure Requests. Section 3.6(K) of the new contract has new language that specifically states: "It is understood that an officer's personal identifying information shall be redacted from ALL RECORDS RELEASED." I would think that your name would be personal identifying information. Did the reporter even bother reading the new contract? In that same story, the reporter implied that there were changes to the 180 day OPA time limit protection in our contract. TOTALLY FALSE! The 180 day time line section (3.6. B) was not touched at all. Other changes in the OPA section of the contract include, once and for all, a definitive clarification that "OPA will not conduct criminal investigations." Section 3.1 has received a lot of attention because it declares that there will be a "presumption of termination" if an officer receives a sustained finding involving dishonesty. I invite everyone to carefully read this section. The officer must "intentionally" provide false information, which the officer knows to be false, regarding facts that are material to the investigation. The ever popular "general or catch-all type questions" do not apply. (Is there anything you have ever done wrong in your entire life that you are not telling me?) It also further clarifies that "dishonesty is more than mere inaccuracy or faulty memory." Another important safeguard is that the department must prove this allegation by "clear and convincing" evidence. The bottom line is that we always strive to be totally honest and accurate. We are not computers and we may get things wrong.. If you are ever asked something and you are not absolutely certain, say that you are "not sure." Most of the other OPA changes pertain to what happens at Loudermills and what the Chief must do if he changes an OPA recommendation. The contract dictates that any report that the Chief authors explaining his decision must have the officer's name and any personal information redacted.

The other section I wanted to focus on was section 4.11 which is known as the "Safe Staffing Language." This sections states that the department is responsible for setting the staffing levels for patrol. The section states that "the department shall maintain sufficient shift staffing in each precinct during ALL hours to ensure officers have sufficient backup and other personnel resources to SAFELY perform their job duties." It goes on to say that if safe levels cannot be met that supervisors can draw officers from other precincts, utilize on-duty UNIFORMED resources (CPT, ACT, ETC) and if those measures are not enough, bring officers in on overtime. So, if your shift minimum is 12 officers and only 9 show up for work, someone should bring this to the attention of a supervisor. If they choose to do nothing because perhaps, they think the overtime is a direct withdrawal from their savings account or they are on a promotional list, the officers are encouraged to make note of this decision. (Include the date/time & supervisor's name.) Now after the supervisor failed to take action to correct the staffing issue, officers should also take note of any calls or incidents where safety was put in peril. Just "feeling unsafe" will not be enough for us to file a grievance. Officers should be able to document the event and illustrate the safety concern. As an example, if an officer was asking for a backup because he had a suspect at gunpoint and had to wait an unreasonable amount of time because there was no one available. Now hopefully, there will never be a need to file a grievance because supervisors will error on the side of safe staffing. Just in case though, this new contract section is there to protect us. The contract is on the SPOG and City Website. Take the time to read it.

In light of the events of the last month, I'd like to end this month by reminding everyone of a few very good sayings that we should all think about as we live the very difficult life of police officers. An allegation is defined by Webster as: "an assertion made without proof." Our law guarantees us that we are "Innocent until proven guilty." The great Booker T. Washington said, "It is better to be judged by twelve than carried by six." Most importantly, our Savior told us all, "let him without sin, cast the first stone." Be safe and support each other, especially through the rough times!

Fallen Officer Memorial Softball Tournament

By Officer Christine Nichols, SW Precinct



Top Row: Buzzy Katzer, Robin Seibert, her boyfriend Eddy Blackburn, Al Ferreira, Billy Smith (an Army friend of Nichols), Tyler Speer. Second Row: Fran Smith, Pat Dinsmore (a friend of Smith), Christine Nichols, Third Row: Sue Swanson (a friend of Smith), Mike Lewis, Jon Knight and Al Sheheen. Not Pictured: Tomeka Williams, Katrina Walter, Patrick Groom (a friend of Sheheen).

I have finished another year of playing softball with this wonderful organization team known as “Seattle Red.” To give you a little insight, The Fallen Officer Memorial Tournament (FOMT) is a Non-Profit Organization, whose proceeds are donated to the survivors of the fallen officers. FOMT holds softball tournaments and golf outings in support of our fallen officers and their families. They pick a fallen officer for the year and conduct opening ceremonies at the beginning or the tournament with representatives of the fallen officer’s department and families present. This year Federal Way Police Officer Patrick Maher, who was killed in the line of duty Aug 2, 2003 with honored.

Over the years I have put together a co-ed team to compete in this tournament, and Pete Sicilia has put together a men’s team. Most of the time we do not win but we have fun trying. This year’s games were played at Marymoor Park in Redmond on July 26-27th. Because of Torchlight many officers who played for me in the past were not able to join us, however I still was able to get a great bunch of people to play. We played two games on Saturday, losing both, and played three games on Sunday, and we actually managed to pull out a win.

I want to thank the sponsors for assisting us in putting this on: Marco Polo Lounge at 5613 4th Avenue South in Seattle; Don’s Group Attire 5216 1st Avenue South in Seattle and Sergeant Joe Bauer. These sponsors assisted us with the cost of the tournament, the shirts and the printing of the shirts. Seattle Red truly appreciates your support.

There were some awesome plays and some blunders but all of us had a fantastic time playing. The team actually opened the beer garden on Saturday and Sheheen graced us with his sock beers on Sunday; a tournament tradition. Again, thank you to everyone that assisted in making this a great weekend.

I have given a heads up that next year’s tournament will be honoring a fallen Seattle Police Officer so if you are interested in playing on a co-ed team please contact myself, Al Sheheen or Buzzy Katzer. If you are interested in contacting the organization itself, contact Calvin Beringer at calvinberinger@fomt911.com and the web site is www.fomt911.com.



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Impressed with Torchlight

(I mean into service)

By Officer Steve Pomper, East Precinct

I wasn’t sure I wanted to write about this issue, because on its surface it could have a somewhat whiney flavor. But, when you take a good bite, you find there’s legitimate meat to it. First, cops whining about being drafted or held over, even for legitimate reasons, is a coveted right and one that, while expressed outwardly, is perhaps not felt so much on the inside, since officers do occasionally expect it in police work.

However, when we dig into the causes of recent conscriptions and sudden shift hold-overs, and more importantly, the methods used to conduct these, that’s where we find abuses. For example, the holding over of certain officers or entire watches within hours of their shift’s conclusion, absent any special circumstances, such as some special intel or unusual occurrence, for an annual event, shows very little respect for the officers it affects. Off duty jobs, childcare, family commitments are all affected, and it appears, frivolously. To be fair, this situation seemed to have improved for a while, but perhaps...we’re back.

The primary issue I’d like to address is the Seafair Torchlight Parade draft—deep draft—of patrol resources, with relatively short notice, for—again—an annual event. During other times of the year a month’s notice might not affect officers to as much of a degree, but in the summer, time off with family and friends is at a premium for patrol. I can’t tell you the number of officers who already had plans that had to be altered or canceled, due to this draft. However, I’d guess more than a few officers mentioned it themselves.

Just to refresh those who haven’t been in patrol for a while: At the beginning of the year, officers coordinate their calendars and their court codes to figure out their schedules. This year I saw I was working the Fourth of July (as usual), oh well, tough for me, but others with my seniority, some less, some more, who did have it scheduled off—actually had it off. My calendar showed I had Torchlight off and I even joked with those fortunate, furloughed-for-the-4th of July, officers that I could laugh on Torchlight when they were working and I was enjoying it with my family—Not!

Why does this situation have an especially heightened affect on patrol? Consider this: Let’s take “A” Court Code for example. During the summer, June 21st through September 21st, patrol officers enjoy only four, yes 4, scheduled Saturdays off. So how much do you think the department taking one of these days away hurts us? While working a summer Saturday also sucks for Detectives and other non-patrol officers, those folks do have most weekends scheduled off for most of the year. Patrol officers know we have few weekend days furloughed, and many may even prefer that schedule for certain reasons, but that doesn’t

mean we don’t cherish those few we do get—our families certainly do.

And what adds to the pain is that, veteran patrol officers with a decade or two, or three, and even four are being drafted as a direct result of the irresponsible politicians and administrators who’ve run this city over the past several decades. They’ve failed in their vital duty to keep the police department sufficiently staffed. Officers get drafted, not due to routine “police needs,” but due to political neglect and incompetence. In this instance, I don’t think we can blame our department leaders, as I’m certain, at least I sure hope it’s the case, that they truly support increasing staffing levels; it’s the city politicians who deserve the bulk of the blame for this one. However our department *is* to blame for the disrespectful manner in which these conscriptions are too often conducted.

After speaking about this issue with many of my compatriots, an interesting consensus emerged: Words and methods do matter. Not words alone of course, and surely not hollow words, but a simple, sincere acknowledgement of the sacrifice department employees are making to staff these events, and have been making for years now. As I mentioned in last month’s article, a certain lieutenant demonstrated this concept admirably. What would be wrong with putting out a notice that acknowledged that officers were being drafted due to a strain in staffing, and not pretend it was business as usual? When a leader—true leader, tells me he understands my circumstance sucks, but he truly appreciates my efforts, I feel as though I’m doing a “favor” for a leader who cares about his troops and I’m willing to go the extra mile for that person. However, people in leadership positions, but who are not necessarily good leaders, should take heed; this is not something that can be faked. Disingenuousness can be spotted a mile away. If you can’t figure out the difference, well, that’s a problem and will continue to affect morale, recruiting, and retention.

And since I’ve broached the topic; one ancillary note: For those folks who *are* concerned about recruiting and retention, especially with retaining mid-experienced officers (officers with roughly 3 to 7 years), with SPD, what affect do you think drafts conducted in this manner have on them? I don’t have to imagine; I heard it for myself at Torchlight within seconds of arriving in the parking lot. They can’t even look forward to seniority helping them to avoid such situations in the future. When you have a draft that plucks ultra-veteran patrol officers from the first page of the department’s seniority list, that makes a long career ahead look all that much longer.

Oh; one more thing: Where the hell’s our money!

How is My Driving?

By Officer John Abraham, SPOG Sergeant-at-Arms and SPD Safety Officer

I hope to bring to your attention the fact that we as officers of the SPD could do a better job of preventing collisions. I have reviewed the statistics for accidents for the year to date, and want to share the results. The categories that crashes can be classified as are: preventable, non-preventable, use of force, appropriate use of police equipment, non-event, equipment issue, training, parked occupied and un-occupied. In the past 8-years, since I took over as Safety Officer, the non-preventable crashes always outnumber the preventable ones. However in 2008 to date there have been 45 non-preventable crashes and 56 preventable crashes. They break down like this: 6 use of force crashes, 3 non-event crashes, 2 equipment issue crashes and 28 parked crashes. The preventable crashes break down like this: 17 backing crashes, 16 failure to negotiate stationary objects (pivot points), 5 intersection crashes, 5 rear end crashes, 5 inattention crashes, 3 speed crashes, 4 speed too fast for conditions crashed and 1 MDC crash.

Ladies and Gentlemen we can do a better job, and in doing so decreasing the risk of serious injury! What is the big deal you ask? Why am I so upset at the fact that we are crashing over 200 cars a year? Well here is one very good reason and if you read nothing else READ THIS; there have been 73 officers across the country killed in the line of duty to date, compared with 126 for this point last year. Let me break down the traffic related deaths: 2007 Automobile Crashes-36, 2008 Automobile Crashes-21; 2007 Struck while outside of vehicle-5, 2008 Struck while outside of vehicle-6; 2007 Motorcycle/Bike Crashes-5, 2008 Motorcycle/Bike crashes-3.

The highest cause of Line of Duty Deaths isn’t the bad guy shooting at you! It’s not the terrorist attack! It’s not the drug busts! It is traffic related incidents! It’s responding lights and siren to a fast back-up, a shots fired call, a Help The Officer call, a fight in progress call, because you want to get to the call quickly and fail to clear the

intersection, failing to see a citizen crossing in a cross-walk when you are making a right turn, allowing your attention to be distracted away from your driving while you are talking on a cell phone, looking down at the MDC while not paying attention to the traffic ahead and not having an escape route if trouble develops!

Here is another reason why you need to pay attention to your driving: “Drive to Arrive!” If you drive to arrive you will be able to be there for your fellow officer who has called for that fast back-up! If you crash on the way to a high priority call you are no good to your fellow officers! Let me paint you this bad picture; there is a police officer in the Midwest who is looking at jail time for causing the death of two civilians while running code to a non-emergency call. There are incidents all over the country where first responders are being held responsible for death and injury to innocent civilians, while responding to calls. The red lights and sirens on your police vehicles do not give you permission to blow through an intersection! By using your lights and sirens you are making your presence known and you are asking permission from the public to allow you to proceed. Use your heads and “Drive to Arrive”!

OK, off the soapbox. A couple quick tips: know what is behind you before you back! Don’t back up unless you have to! When backing look back until you have finished backing it might save you a crumpled fender! Remember your pivot points on your patrol cars. If you think the space you are driving through or about to drive through is too small...it probably is! If you are used to driving a smaller car find an empty parking lot and practice with you patrol car. Learn your vehicle it can save you a preventable collision.

That’s it for this month. Remember your profession is law enforcement; your job is to go home at the end of your shift!

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Stepping Back

By Officer Jim Ritter, Seattle Police Metropolitan Museum

Reflecting on our lives is something we all do at some point in time, but how many of us really take the time to reflect on the history of our careers within the Seattle Police Department? For most of us the history of our law enforcement career in Seattle starts from the day we get hired. For the exception of occasional war stories we hear from our predecessors, our young officers’ focus on the here and now without really understanding the dynamics of what brought their profession to the place it is today in our society. Being a cop in 21st Century Seattle is a daunting challenge that most people in our community would prefer to judge from a safe distance. For Seattle’s police officers and the public, objectively judging the SPD requires more than just wishful thinking or anger that things should be different or better. Regardless of your personal experiences within the organization the Department has come a long way since its inception as a frontier force in 1876 and has, for few exceptions, traditionally exceeded the standards of most police agencies throughout the nation.

Highlighting these historical struggles and accomplishments and sharing them with the public is the mission of the Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum. The Police Museum was established in 1997 with the sole purpose of collecting, documenting and displaying the cultural, political and technological changes within the SPD and KCSO. The main goal is in educating the public as to how these changes have affected the respective agencies and the citizens they serve. It is clear that the Police Museum

concept has been well received by the public and officers alike and is serving as a critical link between those who have historically looked at the police department as a “closed society”, opening their eyes to the transitions of the force. It has also drawn the interest of many officers who have taken their careers for granted and generated the involvement of many retired officers who had felt their devotion to the SPD had been long forgotten. Additionally, the Police Museum has also helped in channeling media inquiries regarding the historical reasons for our actions prior to jumping to predisposed conclusions, thus re-establishing a degree of cooperation that had been slowly dissolving for generations. One of the most important goals of the Police Museum is to regenerate the interest in history and to re-establish the esprit de corps of our members which had been all but forgotten. For over the past decade, I have been pleased with the response the Police Museum has received from the public, our officers and the police administration, which I believe is beginning to understand how important morale is in our organization is.

Throughout the past decade I constantly analyze and evaluate the Police Museum’s progress as it pertains to our mission and goals. Without sounding egotistical, I was pleased with our accomplishments and satisfied that our facility was educating the public to the highest degree possible. Much to my surprise, these conclusions changed with the restoration of the Museum’s two vintage police cars. As most of you know, the Police Museum was fortunate to obtain and restore two authentic police cars from the

agencies we represent. The first was a 1967 Plymouth Fury I from the King County Sheriff’s Office and the second, a 1970 Plymouth Satellite from the Seattle Police Department. The restorations were a monumental undertaking that involved the active collaboration of private individuals, businesses throughout the Northwest, and the support of the administrations of both the KCSO and SPD.

As if the support of those involved was not surprising enough, my real amazement and gratification came with the public’s reaction to these vehicles, which are now the most highly visible PR tools available to the Police Museum and the agencies it represents. The magical powers these cars possess can be best demonstrated on the day I had the SPD car parked outside the museum in Pioneer Square. As I was leaving, eight Blood gang members approached with their leader asking if they could see the car and its engine. The moment I said yes these tough gang bangers turned into regular eighteen year olds with a fascination for old cars, putting their violent image aside and connecting with the police for just a fleeting moment, if for no other reason to appreciate something from the past that they thought was “cool”. It was a day I will never forget and made me realize that these were more than just old cars.

Since their unveiling these cars have been seen by hundreds of thousands of people from throughout the Northwest at parades, car shows and a variety of special events. After driving a patrol car for nearly thirty years, I was most surprised by the smiles, waves and friendly looks on

people’s faces as they see the cars drive by, a reaction I don’t normally get with the current Crown Vic. I can best describe the looks as a combination of amazement that the cars still exist, youthful reminiscing, or a fascination with the car’s power which represents the traditional image the police portrayed during some of the most turbulent years in our country’s history. Whatever their feelings, the positive reaction from the public has been the most satisfying of my career.

One of the highlights every year is our vehicle’s involvement in a variety of special events throughout the state with members of the Emergency Vehicle Owner’s and Operators Association (EVOOA). This group recently hosted an event in Eastern Washington in which a variety of members showed off their vintage police cars, including an original 1965 Dodge Polara from the California Highway Patrol and a 1956 Chevy Custom representing the LAPD. The cars displayed at these events demonstrate to the public the types of vintage police cars from the past and attract a diverse selection of the community. Weather it’s a retired officer who use to drive one, the speeders who use to try and outrun them, the criminals who rode in the back seat or the average citizen who remembers them in their youth, most everyone can relate to what these vintage police cars mean to them.

Weather it be an old relic, vintage cars or just a fond memory of your past, history plays an important role in all of our lives. The next time you look at your badge or tell someone what you do, take pride in what you represent and remember that it all happened for a reason. We are all part of our history, make it count.

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Pictures were taken on the old Vantage Hwy (Hwy 10), in the Yakima River Canyon on the old Canyon Road between Eleensburg and Yakima and at the Roslyn Car Show.



Bill Woods with his 1965 Dodge Polara with California Highway Patrol markings, followed by George March in his 1956 Chevy Custom with Los Angeles Police Department markings, followed by Officer Jim Ritter in his 1967 Plymouth Fury I with King County Sheriff's Office Markings. The motorcade was escorted by former SPD officer, Dave Deluca, who now works for Cle Elum Police Department.



Future SPD Officer (Academy Class of 2024) checks out the 1970 Plymouth Satellite with vintage SPD markings.



Bill Woods with his 1965 Dodge Polara with California Highway Patrol markings followed by Officer Jim Ritter in his 1967 Plymouth Fury I with King County Sheriff's Office Markings.



The 1967 Plymouth Fury I with King County Sheriff's markings and the 1970 Plymouth Satellite with vintage Seattle Police Department

Vanishing Seattle

Continued from page 1

just don’t give a lot of credence to the numbers anymore. But I thought I would do some number comparisons between the annual reports for 2007 and 1971. I picked 1971 because I have the annual report for that year. As I have written before, I have this report because it has a picture of my hero, Chief George Tielsch. During my career, his tenure as Chief marked SPD’s finest hours...at least in my humble opinion.

The SPD budget in 1971 was about \$23 million. In 2007 it was about \$213 million. These numbers are a bit misleading as the budget system used in this city is beyond bizarre. In 1971 we had 1,210 sworn personnel. In 2007 we had 1,277 authorized sworn positions (down 3 from 2006) I don’t know how many of those authorized positions were actually filled. In 1971, SPD officers handled 257,573 incidents. In 2007 we handled 521,037 incidents.

Here are some comparisons you won’t find in the annual reports. In 1971, the standard issue weapon for new SPD officers was the Smith & Wesson .38 revolver. In 2007, it was the Glock .40. In 1971, new SPD officers could purchase and carry their own department approved .38 or .357 revolver. In 2007, it’s the Glock or nothing. In 1971, every SPD recruit received shotgun training in the academy. In 2007, SPD recruits never even saw a shotgun while in the academy. In 1971, every SPD patrol car had a shotgun in it...just in case. In 2007, very, very few did. The lack of shotguns has taken on new meaning in light of recent events out of state. In 1971, response times to calls were superb. In 2007, well... In 1971, Seattle had its own jail for misdemeanor arrests, including its own 24/7 doctor.

In 2007 we didn’t, but now we are talking about building another one. In 1971, I had no concerns about taking my 3 year old daughter to downtown Seattle at night. In 2007, I would never have even considered taking my 4 year old grand-daughter or her mother to downtown Seattle at night.

Landmarks and the character of my neighborhood are not the only things which have become a part of vanishing Seattle.

The Department has purchased over 50 new Crown Victoria’s with ballistic panels in the front doors. As far as I can remember, this is the first time any ballistic protection has been added to an SPD patrol car since 1968 when the door windows of one or two 1968 Fords were replaced with bullet proof glass. This followed the October 1968 ambush and shooting of two of our officers, including my brother. The officers were assigned to Car 197, affectionately known as the “suicide car”. SFD firefighters from the station at 33rd Ave. and Union St. were being shot at by snipers while on calls. SPD assigned a two-officer car to follow the fire truck whenever it left the station. The idea was that the snipers would probably shoot at the cops instead of the firefighters. They did. Traditionally, brand new patrol cars have first been assigned to patrol sergeants. No offense to any sergeants, but I think these particular new cars should first be assigned to patrol officers.

As of the July personnel order, the department has hired 69 new officers in 2008 and 37 have left the department. Since January 2006, 168 new officers have been hired and 139 have left.

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Happy Anniversary



The Guardian Staff is pleased to announce the milestones achieved by the following SPOG members during the month of September!

35 years of Service

Sergeant Eddie Rivera, West Precinct
Sergeant Roger Rusness, South Precinct
Detective Dave Murray, Fugitive Warrants

30 years of Service

Detective Al Stephens, B/T North

25 years of Service

Detective Sergeant Brad Thomas, ICAC
Detective Tim Fields, SAU
Officer Mark Body, North Precinct
Officer Bob Cavin, Traffic

20 years of Service

Detective Sergeant Randy Woolery, OPA-IS
Sergeant Larry Brotherton, West Precinct
Sergeant Brian Kraus, West Precinct
Detective Will Cravens, B/T South
Detective Nate Gaspertti, Homicide
Detective Ron Sanders, TCIS
Officer Rob Blanco, Motors
Officer Ed Harris, Traffic
Officer Byron Rand, North Precinct

15 years of Service

Detective John Farrar, CAU
Officer Butch Cason, Motors
Officer Roy Ellis, West Precinct
Officer Ron Mazziotti, SW Precinct
Officer Tim Barnes, North Precinct
Officer Erik Warner, West Precinct

10 years of Service

Detective Leslie Smith, SAU
Detective Suzanne Long, DV
Officer Amy Branham, South Precinct
Officer Sam Cook, West Precinct
Officer Theresa Digalis, North Precinct
Officer Matt Hendry, SWAT
Officer Ben Hughey, South Precinct
Officer Ken Mazucca, SW Precinct
Officer Adonis Topacio, SW Precinct
Officer C.J. McRae, South Precinct
Officer Andre Sinn, Employment Services

5 years of Service

Officer Marie Gochmour, SW Precinct
Officer Courtenay Harris, East Precinct
Officer Matthew Lilje, East Precinct
Officer Cameron Probst, South Precinct

Officer of the Month

By Detective Christopher Hall, False Alarm Unit

The SPOG Officer of the Month for August 2008 is Officer Michael Bonet of the South Precinct, as nominated by Sergeant Bill Waltz for his response to a shooting and subsequent arrest.

On July 25, 2008, officers responded to a shooting at Rainier Avenue South and South McClellan Street. Shortly after officer arrived, a possible suspect vehicle was identified as a silver Cadillac occupied by the two shooters. While other officers were responding to the scene, Officer Bonet decided to try and figure out what the escape route would be for the suspect’s vehicle. Based on his experience, Officer Bonet decided to drive northbound on Wilson Avenue South to look for the vehicle. At 2028 (6 minutes after the call came out) Officer Bonet saw the suspect vehicle southbound in the 5200 block of Wilson Avenue South. As the vehicle approached the patrol car, it turned sharply onto 50th Avenue South and the suspects bailed out. Officer Bonet held a containment position to keep the shooters between the houses while he waited for backup and a K9 unit. In addition, he directed the incoming units for containment while updating the suspect descriptions via radio. At that point, K9-7 Officer Hairston arrived on the scene and successfully tracked two of the suspects in addition to a backpack with a handgun. Multiple witnesses subsequently identified one of these suspects as the shooter.

In his nomination, Sergeant Waltz noted, “These arrests were a fine example of Officer Bonet’s professionalism and experience. If he had not logically thought out the suspect’s escape route, these suspects may have gotten away and further endangered the community. Due to his actions, the suspects from a shooting at 2022 hours were in custody at 2046 hours; an outstanding achievement and he is to be commended for his professionalism.”

As the Officer of the Month, Officer Bonet has selected the **Kenneth A. Saucier Memorial Scholarship Fund** as the recipient of the \$250.00 SMCU donation.

If the Citizens Only Knew

By Officer Clayton Powell, South Precinct

In 1971, a new system of asking for assistance was initiated. That system eliminated the need for people requesting help to dial seven digits on their phones. That new system was simply titled “911”. These three numbers are what people call when they are in need of assistance, either from the police or the fire department. When the citizens punch these three digits into their phones, they expect that someone will come to assist them...immediately. I am not, and probably never will be, a firefighter. With that said, I am not going to attempt to comment on the response times of the Seattle Fire Department. I am a police officer for the City of Seattle and therefore I am at liberty to comment on the level of police response.

Since this great establishment recently “progressed” to the new staffing levels and new squad configurations (or lack of squad configurations), the response times to assist the citizens has significantly decreased. Some citizens’ calls for assistance have even held for hours. I have logged into service and responded to calls and upon reading the details of the calls, I have been dumbfounded at the time the citizen dialed 911 to request assistance. When someone calls to report a forced entry burglary at 1330, and I get dispatched at 2315, there is a problem. If I am re- dispatched to some more pressing call, that burglary gets pushed further down the list as it is not a crime in progress. Those who are responsible for this wonderful new system will say that a burglary is not a crime in progress and can be held pending the availability of resources. Try to explain that to the caller as they sit and look at the disarray in their living room and the clothes strewn about their bedroom as every bit if privacy they have has been violated. Every citizen watches some episode of some CSI type television show and knows that they should not clean up the mess, as there might be fingerprints, hair samples, or some form of DNA that could solve the crime. Imagine the look on their faces when I explain that there will not be a HUMMER rolling by with the “spectrocronigraph” to measure the condensation of breath in the air then let them know, via a floating monitor, the height, weight, and hair color of the suspect that broke into their residence. So they sit and wait in the mess and stew with anger waiting for the hero in the blue and white car to arrive. I can only hope they accept my sincere apology for their extended wait and do not blame me personally.

It is only a matter of time until the call loads of an unexpected, unanticipated, or unpredicted incident, overwhelms the number of resources on the street. With the anniversary of the cowardly terrorists attacks of September 11Th (9-11) quickly approaching, we should be ever so thankful the attacks never made it to this city. What minimal number of resources would have been available to respond to the West Seattle Bridge, the Ship Canal Bridge, the Aurora Bridge, or the Columbia Tower? That was well before the shrinkage that removed a large percentage of our resources from the predominant first line of responders...patrol. There are generally just about enough officers on the streets, city wide, at 10:00 AM to respond and effectively handle a crowd of about 50 radical bicyclists causing a traffic jam at 5th Avenue and Cherry Street. Normally these demonstrations do not involve mortar shells and AK47 assault rifles with 50-round banana clips and very skilled assassins. Just imagine for a moment what the carnage will be like if, or make that when, something grandiose occurs and it is 9:00 AM. Remember the Jewish Federation shooting was one lone shooter and officers from the entire city had to respond.


There have been several incidents in the South Precinct alone recently that depleted the available resources to the point that it necessitated we go to priority calls only. Just because there is a shooting at one end of the precinct, should the wife whose drunk and abusive husband is coming at her with a baseball bat be given a number and told to wait in line for assistance? With the minimum number of officers on the street, is it any surprise that it takes the entire south precinct to respond to a critical incident, a shooting or stabbing, when that same level of incident could have been handled by a single squad 10 years ago?

When asked why there are so few officers on the streets and someone has to wait hours for an officer, we are encouraged to falsify a response. We should not say,” I’m sorry ma’am, we just don’t have enough officers on this department”. We should not say,” If you want an answer call the mayor’s office”. We should not say, “Your call was not priority enough and you had to wait”. Why should the citizens not get an honest response to their questions? Isn’t it fact that we could be disciplined, up to and including termination, for falsifying information in an OPA interview? So, let me clarify...we can lie to the citizens, but not to the almighty OPA?

What does that say for the level of security the citizens should have in their 911 system? Why should this system that is put in place to provide an emergency service be so unimportant? If I had friends moving to this city, should I warn them that they should not expect to see an officer for several hours if their house gets broken into or their car gets stolen? It is only a matter of time before the kaleidoscope of police services proves just how insufficiently prepared we are to provide what is needed on a regular basis...let alone a “911” scale incident. In most cases, we are out-gunned when it comes to dealing with armed suspects. We have only a small munitions firearm and are ill-prepared to confront a crazed shooter ready to die for whatever cause he believes in.

So, for those of us who recall the end of roll call speech the sergeant from the ”Hill Street Blues” precinct gave...”let’s be careful out there”.

And that’s a wrap from Cee Pee’s Corner. Go home “By Any Means Necessary” and remember family comes first.



Thank You to Seattle Metropolitan Credit Union for their generous donation of \$250 to the Ken Saucier Memorial Scholarship Fund in the name of Officer of the Month, Officer Michael Bonet. Your contribution is greatly appreciated!

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Retired News

By Mike Germann

New Retirements

There are three new retirements to publish this month, all LEOFF II's:

Donald L. Henderson, #4394, Police Officer – Detective, Service Retirement June 30, 2008; hired March 3, 1980. Among his assignments over the years: North, West & South Precincts, DWI, Motorcycle, Accident Investigation and currently B/T & Juvenile South/SW since January 1, 1999.

Andrew T. Tooke, #4713, Lieutenant, Service Retirement June 30, 2008; hired July 6, 1983. Among his assignments: North & South Precincts, Accident Investigation; promoted to Sergeant August 17, 1988, North Precinct, Accident Investigation, Property Recovery; promoted to Lieutenant January 14, 1993, North & East Precincts, Training, Gangs, and currently Arson/Bomb since January 2, 2002.

Tamara Reynolds, #5338, Police Officer, Disability Retirement July 31, 2008; hired February 1, 1989. Among her assignments: Patrol South, B/T South, Vice Operations, and North Emphasis Task Force.

Congratulations to all the new Seattle Police Department retirees. May they live long and prosper.

Good Numbers to Know

Seattle Police Pension Office

Mailing address: PO Box 94729
Seattle WA 98124-4729
Main office phone number: (206) 386-1286 - Elaine Danielson
FAX number: (206) 386-9075
Tom Grabicki: (206) 386-1287
Michael Germann: (206) 386-1289

Seattle Police Relief Association

Mailing address: 2517 Eastlake Ave E Ste 101
Seattle WA 98102
Main office phone number: (206) 726-9095 - Lynn or Lisa
FAX number: (206) 726-8767
Email address: spra@reliefassociation.org

Seattle Police Officers' Guild

Mailing Address: 2949 4th Ave S
Seattle WA 98134
Main office phone number: (206) 767-1150 – Sarah, Guild President

Executive Board members)
FAX number: (206) 768-1848
email address: mail@seattlepoliceguild.org

Seattle Police Athletic Association

Mailing address: 11030 E. Marginal Way S.
Seattle WA 98168
Main office phone number: (206) 762-7468 – Steve
FAX: (206)233-2642 (Range Office)
email address: spaarange@msn.com

Seattle Police Retired Officers Association

Mailing address: 5020 Brighton Place
Mukilteo WA 98275
Main Office Phone Number: 425-349-5373
email address: retiredspd@aol.com

Book Report

Following in the footsteps of police authors such as Neil Moloney, David Ziskin and Lowen Clausen, there's a new police author in town.

None other than active duty S.P.D. Captain Neil E. J. Low, #2954. Starting as a police cadet in 1968, Neil is currently a Seattle Police Captain who has pretty much seen it all, or at least heard about it from veteran police officers.

Titled Thick as Thieves, Neil's 350 page manuscript tells it like it was in Seattle during the 1940's. The research put into this book on the sights, sounds and smells of the greater metropolitan Seattle is rich with accurate detail that took years to accumulate. Do you really want to know more about the kidnapping and murder of the Lindbergh baby? Read this wonderful work of fiction:

Thick as Thieves
by Neil Low

Tigress Publishing
4831 Fauntleroy Wy SW #103
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or at your usual bookstore or on-line outlet.

You'll be glad you did. Both Ann Rule of Green River fame and Seattle Police Chief Gil Kerlikowske gave this book two thumbs up. Nuff said!

Retired Seattle Police Officers' News

RETIRED SEATTLE POLICE
OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY
MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2008

President Taylor called the meeting to order at noon in the dining room of the Four Seas restaurant at 8th South and King Street, August 13th 2008.

Dave Ritter led the Pledge of Allegiance and President Taylor asked all to remain standing for a moment of silence for the recent passing of Harry Schneider.

President Taylor led the roll call of officers with all present with the exception of John Sullivan who was excused. The minutes of the July meeting have been distributed. President Taylor asked for any corrections or additions. John Larson moved the minutes be accepted, seconded by Ed Turner and passed.

Nick Bulpin gave the financial report and stated it will be submitted for audit.

Pat Munter gave the dates of the 2009 Blue Clan Reunion in Phoenix and suggested anyone planning to attend should make arrangements well in advance as the availability of rooms fill up fast as it is spring training for baseball.

John Guich reminded everyone the RAP picnic at the range is August 21st with doors opening at 10:00 am for games with lunch to follow around 1:00 pm. Beer and pop will be provided as well as lunch at no charge. Bring a white elephant gift for the raffle.

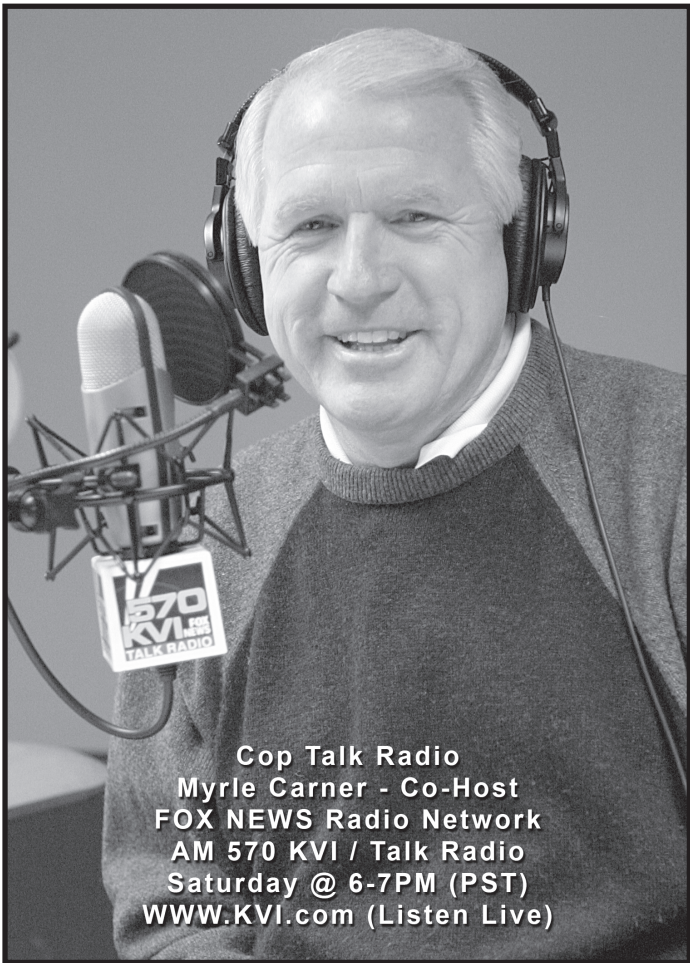
Dick Rovig stated the summer Call Box issue is in the mail and should reach everyone shortly.

President Taylor gave a brief Department of Retirement Systems LEOFF1 Medical Benefits Study report stating they are currently in phase one consisting of fact finding with phase two beginning in about 2 months. He stated you can go to www.LEOFF1.net for more detailed information.

Tommy Knight reported, Jerry Smith, Mayor of Mountlake Terrace, brought two guests to the meeting for lunch and introduced Frank and Tina Martinez both involved with law enforcement.

There being no further business Ed Turner moved for adjournment and 44 people enjoyed another great lunch.

Nick Bulpin, Secretary/Treasurer.



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September 2008 Retirees' Birthdays

Ed. Note: numbers in parenthesis note retiree's September birthdate.
William C. Allen (8), Suzanne E. Allshaw (13), Gordon E. Barnett (21), Howard L. Baus (5), Marilyn J. Beem (22), Michael J. Bolger (28), John R. Boren (24), Robert G. Brown (26), William K. Buckwalter (11), Owen C. Burt (24), Loren B. Burtis (18), Kaaran A. Cannon (11), Ronald D. Chapman (8), Duane L. Christensen (27), John H. Collins (10), Michael J. Crist (16), Robert M. Davis (1), Millicent Deforeest (9), Nadine Dias (10), Barbara J. Dietrich (6), Anthony L. Enders (15), Brian E. Englin (15), Larry A. Estep (13), Dennis Falk (4), Philip R. Forsell (5), Alfred K. Fridell (21), Douglas M. Fritschy (10), Michael R. Gregg (25), Gordon D. Grosvenor (13), Barbara J. Grout (20), Leroy J. Habryle (29), Madeleine Hagen (14), John R. Hannah (17), Dale E. Harper (1), Thomas A. Harrigan (7), Larry L. Hay (22), William E. Henaby (7), Robert L. Hoff (28), Janice Jackson (27), Robert L. Japar (1), Thomas W. Jeffers (15), Verlin L. Judd (19), Frank B. Kampsen (22), Alan L. Kemper (23), Steven B. Knechtel (23), Chris R. Kolar (15), Douglas C. Lewis (28), Duane P. Lewis (23), Charles M. Lindblom (3), Louis V. Marks (28), James I. Mason (29), David M. Mathews (1), Robert D. McNeilly (16), Charlotte Meek (21), Janet F. Miller (9), William Moore (11), David G. Murray (6), Jay A. Nicholson (17), John K. Nordlund (24), Margaret Odlin (29), Robert C. Parke (16), John D. Pedersen (2), Michael R. Petras (21), Terry R. Pope (18), Thelma L. Porter (14), Stanley Alan Price, Jr (4), David P. Prideaux (4), Leroy P. Reed (22), Bette Roscoe (17), Joseph A. Sanford (11), William D. Schenck (20), Gregory F. Seth (1), Nils R. Seth (23), Patricia M. Smith (26), Sharon S. Swindler (17), Ronald S. Sylve (7), Frances Sylvester (23), Ronald E. Testerman (9), Vernon A. Thole (17), Arthur Vanpuymbrouck (14), Michael M. Walker (25), Michael W. Ward (19), Margaret D. Waters' (12), Kathleen M. Whalen (27), Helen D. Wicklund (6), Gary D. Williams (14), Donald E. Wood (25), Patricia Ryan Wranstedt (13), Billy Wright (20), Quentin L. Youk (27), Sidney C. Zielke (9),

Last Ring

Harry L. Schneider, #1430, retired Major of the Seattle Police Department passed away in Seattle, while hospitalized, on August 12, 2008. He was 81 years of age and had been ill for quite a while.

Harry was a graduate of Lincoln High School and attended the University of Washington. He was drafted into the Army early in the Korean War and was assigned to a post in Virginia. He was appointed a "Patrolman" of the Seattle Police Department on March 2, 1953 after graduating at the head of his academy class. His assignments included Patrol, Police Academy Instructor, Special Investigator to the King County Grand Jury, Criminal, Homicide, Robbery, Explosives and Internal Investigations, director of Patrol and Communications. Harry was promoted through the ranks of patrolman, detective, sergeant, lieutenant and captain before finally retiring as a Major on December 31, 1985, following 32 years and 10 months of police service.

Harry volunteered his time to various community organizations and enjoyed fishing, wood carving, sailing and telling jokes.

Harry is survived by his wife of 53 years, Betty, a son, a daughter, two grandchildren and a brother.

In Harry's memory please make donations to Harbor View Hospital, Haller Lake United Methodist Church or Ronald McDonald House.

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March 22, 2009
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Appreciation Mass

For Police Officers, Firefighters and E.M.P's

Our Lady of Fatima Parish - Magnolia

September 21, 2008 - 10:30AM Mass



Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Magnolia invites all Seattle/Metro area Police Officers, Firefighters, Emergency Personal and their families to a celebration of a Solemn Mass in their honor on Sunday, September 21st at 10:30AM. **Special tribute** will be paid to these local heroes as well as those who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

All Police Officers, Firefighters and Emergency Personal desiring to attend are asked to assemble in the Narthex of the Church by 10:10AM.

Our Chancel Choir and Chamber Orchestra will provide **inspirational hymns and anthems** for this celebration of the **Holy Eucharist** which will be followed by a private **Brunch** for those Police Officers/Firefighters/Emergency Personal and their families in attendance.

Our Celebrant will be our Pastor, the Reverend James Johnson and all are invited to join us in this celebration regardless of their religious denomination.

All Firefighters, Police Officers, Emergency Personal are asked to R.S.V.P. to 206-352-4587 for the Mass and the brunch by September 18th at Noon.

Our Lady of Fatima Parish
3218 West Barrett Street
Seattle, WA 98199
206-352-4587

Editor's Notes

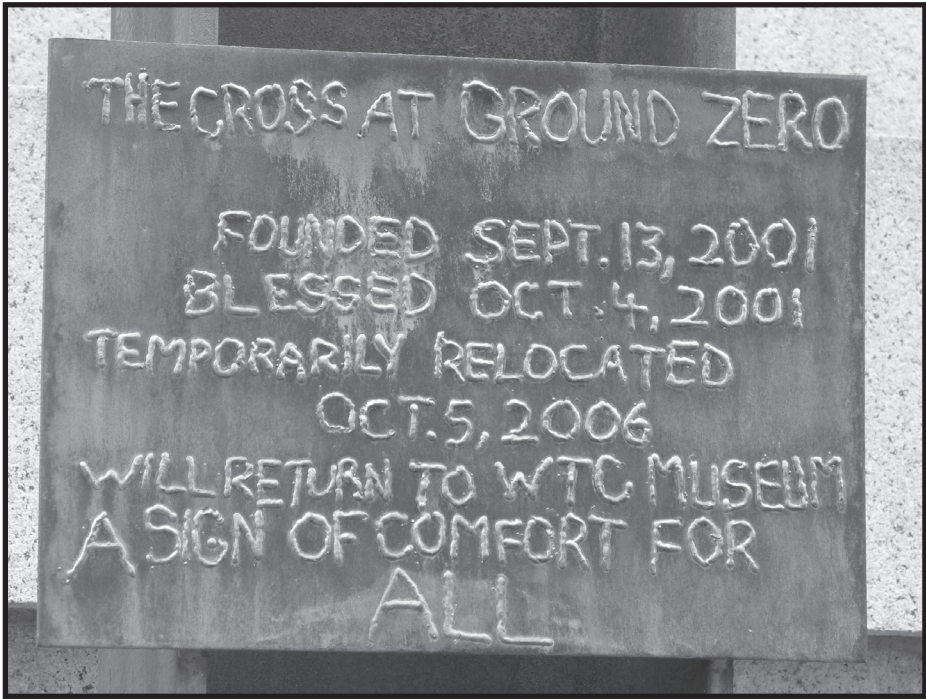
By Detective Ron Smith, Editor



The Editor, Ron Smith is away for an extended period of time. Ron appreciates all of your support and prayers during this trying time.

9-11-01 NEVER FORGET

Pictures taken by Sergeant Rich O'Neill, SPOG President



Save the Date

A fundraiser for the family of **James Jackson** and retired officer **Mike Goetz**

Saturday, October 25th
@ the SPAA Range

****More information will be coming soon****

Calendar of Events

- Seattle Police Relief Association board meeting at the SPRAG Office**
Wednesday, September 10th at 1300 hours
- Retired Officers Banquet**
Wednesday, September 10th at 1800 at the Pavillion
- Seattle Police Officers' Guild general membership meeting at the SPOG Office**
Wednesday, September 24th at 2000 hours

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